

[English]

Appraisal of Public Distribution System

3726. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any mid-term appraisal of the Public Distribution System during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the targets fixed for the plan period have been achieved;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). Government has not carried out any special mid term appraisal of the Public Distribution System (PDS) during the Eighth Five Year period. However, an evaluation of the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) was carried out by the Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of the Planning Commission. This evaluation has indicated that the scheme is generally beneficial to the vulnerable sections of the population cutting across the regions and the States. The study has also pointed out some gaps and constraints in the scheme. These have been brought to the notice of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations who are responsible for the day to day implementation of the PDS as well as the RPDS for suitable intervention by them.

(c) to (f). The targets under the RPDS were proposed by the State Governments/UT Administrations themselves. As per reports received from the State Governments, country level targets have been achieved in the case of opening of additional fair price shops, issue of additional ration cards, elimination of bogus cards, and creation/hiring of additional godown capacity. Central Government reviews the progress in implementation of RPDS with the States/UTs periodically.

Central Government is providing financial assistance to States/UTs for construction of godowns and for purchase of trucks/vans for use as mobile fair price shops or for delivering PDS commodities at the door steps of fair price shops.

Foundation of Health Action

3727. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the Foundation of Health

Action as many as 80% of the drugs being marketed in the country have very little relevance to the treatment for which they are manufactured;

(b) whether manufacturers easily obtain licences for the manufacture of such medicines;

(c) whether the Government propose to check this; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):

(a) to (d) Information will be collected and placed on the Table of the House.

Torturing of Child Servant

3728. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item Captioned "Child servant tortured at Ministry's official house", appearing in Indian Express, dated September 9, 1996;

(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) the action taken/likely to be taken against the guilty official; and

(e) the specific measures being contemplated to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The Government have seen the captioned news item which appeared in the "Indian Express" in its issue dated the 15th September, 1996.

(b) to (e). The Delhi Police have registered a case in the matter. The investigation conducted so far has not, however, substantiated the allegation that the child was tortured.

[Translation]

Crimes in Uttar Pradesh

3729. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a police inspector was killed in the shooting at the time of filing of the nomination paper at Etawah, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry was conducted in this matter;

(c) if so, the outcome of the inquiry and the action taken against the guilty persons; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d). The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments as per Constitutional provisions. Information relating to individual incidents of crime is not maintained by the Central Government.

[English]

Fertiliser Corporation of India

3730. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Tata Se Mil Kar FCI Mein Karoron Rupeh Ka Ghotala", appearing in the Nav Bharat Times, dated September 13, 1996;

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The newsitem that appeared in Nav Bharat Times' dated 13.9.1996 captioned "Tata Se Mil Kar FCI Karoron Rupeh Ka Ghotala" contained certain allegations of irregularities in the agreement between M/s. TISCO and the Sindri Unit of Fertiliser Corporation of India (FCI) regarding processing of coal by the unit. These allegations have been examined to assess whether there was a prima-facie case warranting a further probe in the matter. The allegations were not substantiated by facts.

Cutting of Trees on Nuh, Haryana

3731. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that 300 trees were cut down in Nuh, Haryana as per the newsitem, appearing in 'Times of India' dated November 30, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the persons with whose orders the trees were cut thereby destroying the greenery and causing irreparable loss to the ecological environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected from the concerned State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

LITTE Militants

3732. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether infiltration by LITTE militants from Sri

Lanka in the garb of refugees landed at Rameshwaram Island;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of refugees have arrived in Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka;

(d) if so, whether some of the LITTE refugees from Sri Lanka have started providing training in the refugee camps in Tamil Nadu;

(e) if so, whether the Union Government have issued any directions to the Government of Tamil Nadu in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Government of Tamil Nadu have intimated that no LITTE cadre has been detected so far amongst the refugees coming from Sri Lanka. Government of Tamil Nadu is keeping a close watch to ensure that there is no infiltration of LITTE militants in the garb of refugees.

(c) As per the Government of Tamil Nadu, so far 6783 refugees have arrived from Sri Lanka since 31.7.1996.

(d) Government of Tamil Nadu have intimated that no such activity has come to their notice and that the activities of refugees in the Refugee Settlements are closely monitored and if there is any suspicion about any refugee having militant links, he is promptly lodged in a Special Camp.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. Government of Tamil Nadu have been requested to view with suspicion the refugees in the age group of 12-35 and lodge them in the Special Camps so that there is a total check on their movement in India.

Encroachment of Yaksay Forest

3733. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sikkim Government has allowed to grant permission to start a swimming pool to a private party at Ranikhoda near Ranipool whereas the conservation Law prohibits such construction within a periphery of fifty feet from the river;

(b) whether the Sikkim Government has not taken any action over the encroachment of Yaksay forest by an influential private party; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Government of Sikkim has informed that no permission has been granted to any private party for starting a swimming pool at Ranikhoda near Ranipool.